

24,000 U. S. SHELLS THROWN ON GERMANS

WAR DEPARTMENT SHAKE UP COMING; RESERVE OFFICERS TO BE ASSIGNED FIELD DUTY, SAYS GEN. WHEELER

Uniformed Men Will Be
Replaced by Civilian
Clerks.

CONGRESSMEN PLAN
QUICK INVESTIGATION

Rep. Kitchin Leads Demand
for Distinction from
Fighters.

All enlisted men doing clerical work in the War Department will be assigned to field duty as soon as it is possible to replace them with civilian clerks.

"While it is difficult to replace the enlisted men in our offices on short notice, we intend to do so as soon as possible," said Gen. Wheeler, acting chief of the ordnance department, last night in a Washington Herald staff representative.

"Just how many reserve officers of the draft age will leave our department is hard to say," continued Gen. Wheeler. "The matter is optional with the men concerned. It will be their choice whether they remain here or go in the field."

Officers Choose Active Duty.

It is believed that practically all of the officers who come under this classification, however, will avail themselves of the opportunity to serve their country in active duty.

Various Congressional rumors which have been heard lately are expected to shortly break in a storm over the tremendous number of commissions granted in Washington to men who only qualify for the army were social or political, most of whom occupy minor clerical or administrative positions that could be filled by civilian clerks.

The matter has been kept from open discussion in the past from political fears of one kind or another, such as fear of offending favor persons who may be profited by a pension system of granting commissions or of disclosing to the nation just what has been happening in Washington.

Now with the "safety first" warriors faced by a congressional investigation of the granting of commissions, the matter has been brought to the attention of the House Military Committee, and prominent members of both Naval and Military Committees, it seems that a lively storm is in the House within the next ten days.

Some Doubled Salaries.

Some War Department clerks have more than doubled their salaries by going into unshootable uniforms. Other persons on the House payroll, appointed by members, have found opportunity to place themselves in the commissioned personnel of the War Department.

In December, Secretary Baker announced that no more commissions would be granted in the War Department except to men whose technical qualifications were so high as to make them of extraordinary value to the war machine. For a brief time it appeared that new rising was being enforced, but in time the bars were let down and the number of commissions granted to men merely for clerical service in Washington began to swell again.

Views of Congressmen.

A House member declared yesterday that the House was going to take some action on the matter soon, however it might come.

"We'll make the safety-firsters either take off their uniforms, or go to France to fight, or else take themselves with something that will separate them from the men who are actually going to fight. In Canada the men in nonshootable uniforms are scarcely allowed in the service clubs any longer, and here the real army men of Washington are getting under the same point. It's a shame the way they go over the top every morning to their offices in the War Department, when men in the same uniforms are dying for them in France. At least, they ought to be marked so that folks will know who did the real fighting and who didn't."

Just what proportion of the commissions granted in Washington have gone to men of draft age and otherwise not exempt from active service is not clear. Congressmen who are interested in the matter show no disposition to deny that some of the men commissioned are valuable and have been rightfully given military rank because they bring expert advice and experience to his apartment today.

It is known, on the other hand,

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KERENSKY NOW SAFE;
REACHED CHRISTIANIA

Russian Ex-Premier's Activities Remain Problematical.

Tokio, March 19.—Confidential advisers reaching here confirm that Ex-Premier Kerensky is safe at Christiania. No details as to his activities are given.

Gen. Iakobsonoff, former Russian military attaché, will sail for the United States today on a mission to aid Russian officers applying for admission into the American army.

Gen. Iakobsonoff was en route to Petrograd when Kerensky, who had offered him the portfolio of vice minister of war, was overthrown. He was later offered the office of war minister by Lenin.

CONTROL ALL D. C.'S POWER, PITH OF BILL

Public-Owned Gas, Light,
Phone and Cars Rep.
Cary's Proposal.

WIDE POWER INVOLVED
When Companies Taken
Over, Commissioners to
Have Full Control.

Taking over of the District's gas and electric lighting systems, as well as the city's telephones and street railways, is recommended in a bill which Representative Cary, of Wisconsin, introduced in the House yesterday afternoon. It will receive attention of the House District Committee as soon as possible.

Representative Cary's bill would vest the Commissioners with power to operate the plants and to issue bonds, running for a period of 20 years, payable out of the revenues of the gas and electric lighting companies, to defray the cost of taking them over.

Bill All-Inclusive.

It is stipulated in the bill that "gas and electric lighting systems" is meant "every plant located in the District for the purpose of the manufacture, distribution or supply of illuminating gas or gas for fuel purposes, or electric power for illuminating purposes, including all equipments, mains, conduits, outdoor and indoor pipes and wiring."

Representative Cary's bill is modeled after Representative Crosser's bill introduced in the House April 2, 1917, which provided for the acquisition by the Commissioners of all the street railways located in the District.

By the terms of the bill the Commissioners, as soon as they have lawfully acquired the gas and electric lighting plants, are empowered to adopt such rules and regulations and employ such persons as they shall consider necessary or desirable for the efficient and economical operation and management of such street railways or railroads, but not so as to conflict with any Act of Congress.

May Employ Experts.

The Commissioners would also have the power to employ such experts, assistants, and counsel and incur such expenses as they might deem necessary for the proper conduct of such rules and regulations as provided for in the bill for the acquisition of the title, possession and control of such gas and electric lighting system, and such expenses shall be payable by the treasurer.

Owing to the many other measures awaiting the early consideration of the District House Committee and the House itself, it is doubtful whether this bill will be acted upon very soon unless it is taken up out of its turn.

First of N. J. Vessels
Launched by Miss Hughes

Newark, N. J., March 19.—The first of ten Perry type wooden ships being built by the Foundation Company here was launched today. The vessel was christened the *Coyote* by Miss Phillips Hughes, daughter of the late Senator Hughes.

She is of 3,500 tons and is 287 feet long. City and State officials were present at the launching. The vessel was designed by Theodore N. Perry, who recently resigned from the Shipping Board.

Mme. Storch May Face
Firing Squad in France

Alleged Spy Loses Debonair Manner When
Information Discloses She May be Put
to Death for Treason.

New York, March 19.—The tinkling of a bell and the sound of a beautiful Mme. Despine Davidovitch Storch was said to have accepted her arrest yesterday as a spy, was stilled today when she was informed that a Presidential warrant had been issued for her deportation, and that if convicted in France she may face a firing squad. The Turkish-born woman's dark cheeks blanched and she became silent.

Await Deportation.

With Mme. Storch at Ellis Island, awaiting deportation, are the mysterious Mme. Elizabeth Charlotte Nix and the young Baron Henri de Beville, son of a French nobleman of unquestioned loyalty. Count Robert de Clairmont, the fourth person named in the warrant, is under arrest in his apartments. He is too ill to be moved, as was ascertained by a physician sent by Federal authorities to his apartment today.

One of the developments of the day in the latest spy case was a report

TAKING DUTCH SHIPS AWAITS HOLLAND'S SAY

Proclamation Hung Up for
Word of Netherlands'
Final Attitude.

U. S. IS DETERMINED
Will Get Idle Tonnage
Emphasized by Needs of
Transportation.

A Presidential proclamation, taking over all Dutch shipping in American ports, hung in suspense last night awaiting word from London as to Holland's final attitude.

Whether the Netherlands' government actually accepts or rejects the allied proposals is still to be established.

In either event the American government is determined to get the ships.

Action Warranted.

The Cabinet meeting yesterday is understood to have approved the stand that the action is fully warranted by the extreme needs of the allies for transportation.

As reported, the proclamation is understood to direct Secretary Daniels to take physical possession of the ships in the name of the United States.

Similar action by Great Britain would immediately follow.

Secretary Daniels has been in New York for several days with all his plans ready to send naval reserve officers aboard the ships and to have the American flag at daylight today. Most of the ships, as cargo carriers only, will be operated by the Shipping Board. Only those suitable for transport duty will be operated by the navy, though all will have American naval crew members aboard if they go through the danger zone.

On receipt tonight of a telegram from the Baltimore shipyard company, Mr. Hurley telegraphed Mr. Franklin at the Kansas City headquarters of the union, to get in touch with the men and urge them to return to work pending a settlement.

Meanwhile, a representative of the director of labor of the Shipping Board has been sent to Baltimore to treat with the men informally.

The discontent of the shipyard workers with the method of adjustment, based on local conditions, has revived advocacy here in official circles of a uniform wage scale in the shipyards.

As the decisions operate at present, the Pacific Coast, which was organized strongly by union labor and had obtained a high standard of living conditions before the Shipping Board Wage Adjustment Board established a uniform rate for the coast, receives the highest rate for all classes of labor. The men on this coast want that rate.

A comparison of the skilled mechanics' wages, set by the three decisions thus far rendered, shows a rate of \$8.45 for those on the Pacific Coast; \$5.50 for those in the Delaware Chesapeake district, and \$5.20 for the workers of similar crafts in the yards of the Gulf and South Atlantic.

The department was also advised that the Austro-German forces occupied Odessa on the 13th, John A. Ray, consul at Odessa, removed to Rostoff on the Don, capital of the Cossack province.

From Sweden the department received a report that the German forces occupying the Aaland Islands are ruthlessly requisitioning for their own uses there all of the food and provisions available and that there has been great suffering among the people as a result.

Tampa, Fla., March 19.—Citizens are formed into a posse searching for five or six men who composed the gang which made an unsuccessful attempt to rob the American State Bank at Zephyr Hills, early this morning. Banker A. B. Storm was shot and instantly killed as he entered the back door of the bank. While two of the men were working inside the bank, the others were posted at vantage points outside.

The first explosion, when the door of the vault was blown off, aroused the town's people, who left their homes, but were warned to keep their distance by the police.

"If you come closer, we will shoot to kill,"

The robbers made a dash for the railroad tracks, keeping their guns handy and fired to keep back pursuit. About a half mile down the railroad, a high powered car had been concealed in the woods, close to the road leading to Blant, City and Tampa, and the robbers made their escape in it.

Another of today's revelations was that Edmund Rousselet, the adventurer who recently tried to borrow \$50,000 from J. P. Morgan and Company while posing as the Marquis di Castille, and who is now in the Tombs awaiting trial, was an associate of Count Robert de Clairmont.

Efforts are being made by Charles F. De Woody, local superintendent of the Department of Justice, to learn

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President Wilson Signs Bill for Daylight Saving

President Wilson signed the daylight saving bill yesterday. At 2 a. m. Easter morning, March 31, all government clocks will be advanced to 3 a. m.

The clocks will remain at this advanced hour until 2 a. m. Sunday, October 27, when they will be set back one hour.

The government clocks include the Naval Observatory instruments and all clocks in departments, railroad stations, etc.

It is calculated that 1,598,818 railroad clocks must be changed to the new time.

The law does not make it mandatory upon business to alter its clocks, but as all legal and governmental activities will be conducted upon the new time scale, it is expected the change will be universal.

Under the plan there will be an hour more available for work each day and an hour more for recreation.

The man who goes to work at 8 a. m. this week will go to work at the same clock-hour next week, but the sun-time will actually be 7 a. m. When he leaves his office at 5 o'clock by the new scale it will really be 4 o'clock by the sun.

Some of the benefits will be:

- Saving of 1,000,000 to 1,500,000 tons of coal annually.
- Increased food production.
- Fewer traffic accidents.
- Improvement in health due to fresh air and time for exercise.

Speeding freight transportation.

New York and London Stock exchanges open for one hour together. At present the London Exchange closes as New York opens.

France and England now use the daylight saving plan.

STRIKE OF 600 SHIP WORKERS EMBARRASSING

Trouble at Baltimore Over
Wage Differences Makes
Board Uneasy.

With a strike of 600 hull workers yesterday in the yards of the Baltimore Drydocks and Shipbuilding Corporation, added to the difficulties in the South Atlantic and Gulf ports shipyards, where the strike split is smoldering, the United States Shipping Board is confronted with serious labor trouble, growing out of a general dissatisfaction with all its wage decisions rendered so far on this coast.

The Southern situation is only temporarily relieved by promise of conferences and the new disturbance marks the first protest of shipyard labor against the Delaware-Chesapeake wage district decision.

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FRANCO-AMERICAN FORCES RAID ENEMY TRENCHES AT TWO POINTS; HUN AND YANKEE BUSY SHELLING

LA FOLLETTE FORCES WIN IN WISCONSIN

Nomination of Thompson
Victory for Candidate of
Senior Senator's Wing.

DEM. NAME DAVIES

Socialists Pick Victor Ber-
ger with Strength Going
to Democrats.

Milwaukee, March 19.—Indications early this morning make the nomination of Joseph E. Davies, Democrat, and Thompson, Republican, certain.

The LaFollette forces supporting Thompson claim victory for their candidate, but late returns indicate that the support of the Republican machine may yet pick the nomination for Lenroot.

Complete returns are not yet available, but it is certain that Dr. McCarthy was swamped by Davies for the Democratic nomination.

Berger Nominated.

Victor Berger, under indictment for alleged seditious utterances in the Socialist party, but movement had already been started

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Latest Casualty List
From Gen. Pershing

Gen. Pershing reported the following casualties to the War Department yesterday afternoon:

- 3 killed in action.
- 3 died of disease.
- 3 died of wounds.
- 12 died of disease.
- 2 wounded severely.
- 5 wounded slightly.

Total 30.

Killed in Action.

Capt. Phelps Collins.
Private Frank J. Konopek.

Died of Accident.

Lieut. George O. Middlefield.
Cadet Edward E. Butler.
Private Martin J. Murphy.

Died of Wounds.

Private Alma M. Martin.
Private Arthur P. Vandrieul.
Private William Wilkerson.

Died of Disease.

Sergeant William F. Carroll.
Private James F. Allford.
Private Charles R. Burtch.
Private Herman Crosby.
Private Temple Dudley.
Private Frank E. Fisher.
Private Arvel Johnson.
Private Ralph M. Montez.
Private Ralph H. Peters.
Private James Walter Moore.
Private Emanuel Scott.
Private Oliver W. Sexton.

Wounded Severely.

Sergeant Frank Hickman.
Private Austin R. Schumacher.

Wounded Slightly.

Sergeant Robert C. Baughn.
Private Charles Bibeau.
Private Graden B. Godfrey.
Private Daniel J. Heale.
Private William J. Mulligan.
Private Sam Todd.
Private Stewart Treibbe.
Private Kazimir Wolpusk.

Attack Launched From Evacuated Trenches Discovers More Lines Deserted

KAISER SEEKS BOOST BY PRESS

Invites Neutral Correspondents to "Offensive"
Party—Baker Makes Extensive
Inspection Trip.

With the American Army in France, March 19.—Franco-American forces again raided German trenches in the Badonvillers region today, penetrating 300 yards into the enemy lines at two points.

Twenty-four thousand Yankee shells were thrown on the enemy positions.

The aggressors found the positions evacuated and were forced to return without prisoners.

The raid was launched from an abandoned German trench.

There was the usual artillerying at other points held by the Americans today.

In the Soissons region (Chemin-des Dames sector), 6,000 German shells, mostly gas, were dropped on the Franco-American lines.

French and New England gunners replied to the German fire with a bombardment four times as heavy as that received.

In response to Secretary McAdoo's request, machine guns, flame-throwers and trench knives captured on the Toul front will be sent to America for exhibition in the third liberty loan campaign.

English and Portuguese
Make Successful Sallies,
Capturing Machine Guns

Copenhagen, March 19.—The German high command has invited a number of neutral newspaper correspondents to witness the "German offensive on the West front," according to information reaching here today. The correspondents will start for the front Wednesday.

London, March 19.—English troops successfully raided enemy positions in the neighborhood of Villers Guislain, Lacquerie and Bois Grenier last night, bringing back a number of prisoners. Field Marshall Haig reported today.

Three Hun Groups.

Portuguese troops conducted a raid east on Neuve Chapelle, capturing prisoners and two machine guns.

In the neighborhood of Fleurbaix and Bois Grenier three attempted enemy raids were repulsed with considerable losses to the raiders last night.

Hostile artillerying occurred in the Ypres section of Gen. Gallwitz in the German War Office reports as to fighting on the Western front indicate that the German armies on that battle line have been split into three groups.

For more than a year the Western front armies were divided in two groups, one being commanded by Prince Rupprecht of Bavaria, and the other by the German Crown Prince. The command of Rupprecht extended from the Aisne river front to the North Sea, while the armies of the Crown Prince occupied the line from the Aisne to the Swiss frontier.

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There are American troops on part of the old French line in the Woerpe and in the foothills of the Vosges.

Kaiser's Pictures Removed.

Waterbury, Conn., March 19.—School children of this city will have to look elsewhere than in their school books for a picture of the Kaiser. All pictures were ordered expurgated from the books today by the local school board.

HERTLING DEFENDS
RUSSIAN PEACE PACT

German Chancellor Declares Treaty
Is Just and Proper.

Amsterdam, March 19.—Defense of the peace pact with Russia and denunciation of the allies constituted the main points of a speech in the Reichstag by Chancellor von Hertling today.

While asserting it was of no consequence what the allies thought of the Russian peace, he declared the treaty a just and proper one, chiefly on the ground that the Russian border States had separated themselves from Russia on their account, and that their action had been duly recognized by Russia. The chancellor asserted there was not yet "the slightest inclination" toward peace in the West. The German people, he added, stood "firm as a rock" in the resolve to make further sacrifices.

The radical Socialists remained silent during von Hertling's speech, which greeted certain passages and the conclusion of the speech.

Bolsheviki Outrages
Increasing in Siberia

Tokio, March 19.—Bolsheviki outrages in Northeastern Siberia have grown in number and violence since the Moscow Congress ratified peace, according to word received by official circles here.

A clash occurred at Blagoveshensk, where organized Japanese merchants themselves for protection. Nothing is yet known as to the outcome of the clash. Re-enforcements of Japanese volunteers have been sent to the scene.

Rest and Be Well at Gave Park Inn, Asheville, N. C. First resort in the world. No invalids; no children under 10.—Adv.

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